

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY, US

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER IN MALTA ISSUES STATEMENT
ATTACKING UNITED STATES

REF: VALLETTA 0646 (NOTAL)

1. ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAS PICKED UP FROM THE LIBYAN CULTURAL CENTER HERE A STATEMENT (IN ENGLISH), PEGGED ON THE RECENT CLEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DEPARTURE FROM WHEELUS, BITTERLY CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES. THE FULL TEXT IS QUOTED IN PARA 4 BELOW.

2. ON JULY 3, THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY MAURICE ABELA, HANDED HIM A COPY OF THE STATEMENT AND EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT A FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTER IN MALTA WAS BEING USED AS A PLATFORM FROM WHICH ONE COUNTRY WAS LAUNCHING SUCH ATTACKS ON A THIRD FRIENDLY COUNTRY. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT HE ASSUMED THE GOM WOULD OBJECT VIGOROUSLY IF OUR USIS FACILITY WERE USED TO ATTACK LIBYA OR OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES AND THAT WE CERTAINLY REFRAINED

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FROM DOING SO. ABELA READ THE LIBYAN STATEMENT CAREFULLY,

SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SAID HE WOULD CONTACT US AGAIN AS SOON AS HE LOOKED INTO THE MATTER.

3. LATER SAME DAY BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAYDON, TO WHOM AMBASSADOR HAD SHOWN THE OFFENDING LIBYAN STATEMENT, TELEPHONE FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA SAND SAID THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY IT AS WELL. ABELA MADE THE SAME RESPONSE TO HAYDON.

4. TEXT FOLLOWS: QUOTE EXPULSION OF AMERICAN FORCES FROM LIBYA

"THE CELEBRATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE VICTORY OVER THE COLONIALIST PRESENCE WHICH EXERTED PRESSURE UPON US AND WHICH CHOKED OUR WILL, ARE AN INCARNATION TO A HISTORICAL REALITY; THAT OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER TO TAKE BACK THEIR FREEDOM, AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO CLAIM VICTORY AT THE CALL OF THE REVOLUTION. THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION OFFERED THE LIBYAN NATION THE EXPULSION OF FOREIGN BASES. THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION ACHIEVED LIBERTY AND WORKED FOR PROGRESS.

"AT THIS STAGE, OUR SISTER COUNTRIES CAN ESTIMATE THE GREATNESS OF THE VICTORY WHICH THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION HAS WON WHEN IT CLOSED DOWN THE FOREIGN BASES. THE AMERICAN COLONIALISM WAS CONSTANTLY TRYING TO PENETRATE DEEPLY INTO THE ARAB WORLD WHILST EXPLOITING ITS RICHES. THE EXPULSION FROM THE L.A.R. WAS A HARD BLOW FOR AMERICA AS IT HAD LOST AN IMPORTANT BASE. THE COLONIALIST POLICIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA WEAKENED, AND THEIR STRATEGY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA WAS BADLY EFFECTED. ALL THIS BECAUSE OF THEIR EXPULSION FROM WHEELUS BASE, WHICH IS NOW CALLED 'KBA BIN NAFA'.

"PERHAPS NOT ALL OF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE AMERICAN WHEELUS BASE AND ITS HISTORY. PREVIOUSLY IT WAS A BRITISH MILITARY BASE, AND LATER THESE DONATED IT TO THE AMERICANS. IT IS A COMMON BRITISH CUSTOM TO GIVE THAT WHICH IT DOES NOT POSSESS TO WHOM HAS NO RIGHT TO OWN IT. BRITAIN HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN PALESTINE TO THE ZIONISTS, AND DONATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LANDS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA TO IRAN.

"IN THIS WAY, LIBYAN SOIL WAS GIVEN TO AMERICA TO SET UP THE BIGGEST AMERICAN BASE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE WHEELUS BASE WAS AMERICA'S FUNDAMENTAL AIM AND INTENTION, WHICH WAS PLANNED IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON.

"AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE ARAB WORLD WAS DIVIDED

BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS. BRITAIN AND AMERICA SET UP BASES IN THE WHOLE ARAB TERRITORY TO BE USED FOR DESTRUCTION IN THE HANDS OF THE COLONIALIST. THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN BASES IN LIBYA PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE 1957 (SIC) SUEZ WAR AGAINST EGYPT. IN THE 1967 MIDDLE EAST WAR, THE SAME LIBYAN BASES WERE USED TO HELP THE ZIONISTS IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO DESTROY CIVIL BUILDINGS IN EGYPT, SYRIA AND PALESTINE SUCH AS HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS.

"THE NATIONALIST FEELINGS IN LIBYA WERE BADLY DISHONORED BY THE OPERATIONS WHICH WERE BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE AMERICAN BASES, AND WHEN FINALLY THE FIRST SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION WAS PUT INTO ACTION, THIS HATE FOR THE FOREIGN BASES ERUPTED.

"WHEELUS BASE WAS USED FOR THE TRAINING OF ZIONIST AND MERCENARY SOLDIERS. THESE SOLDIERS WOULD ATTACK A NEIGHBORING VILLAGE, LEAVING DESTRUCTION AND MISERY TO THE LIBYAN FAMILIES. THESE OPERATIONS HAD THE PRIME AIM OF EXTINGUISHING THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY AMONGST THE LIBYANS.

"DEAR FRIENDS, WE HAVE ALL THE RIGHT TO CELEBRATE ON THIS OCCASION OF THE AMERICAN EXPULSION, BECAUSE AS SOON AS WE DECIDED TO LIVE IN PEACE AND FREEDOM, WE HAD THE COURAGE TO CLOSE DOWN AMERICA'S BIGGEST BASE IN THE AREA.

"AMERICA USED TO SAY THAT LIBYA WAS LIVING IN FREEDOM, AND THAT SHE WAS READY TO DEFEND LIBYA WHEN NECESSARY. THESE ARE SHEER LIES WITH WHICH AMERICAN TRIED TO PROLONGATE ITS OCCUPATION OF THE WHEELUS BASE. AMERICAN SOLDIERS KILLED THIRTY-FOUR LIBYAN CITIZENS IN THIS BASE. WAS THIS LIBYA'S PRICE TO LIVE IN A FREE WORLD?
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"WE HAVE PATIENTLY WAITED FOR THAT DAY IN WHICH WE WERE TO GET OUT OF THE COLONIALIST YOKE, AND LIVE IN PEACE.

"NO ONE CAN IMAGINE WHAT THE LIBYAN NATION HAS SUFFERED FROM THE AMERICAN BASE. FEAR, DESTRUCTION AND VIOLENCE WERE VASTLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

"WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A COUNTRY TO BE WELL EQUIPPED FOR ITS DEFENSE, WE TALK THROUGH EXPERIENCE; AND WE HAVE PAID THE PRICE DEARLY. OUR PAST AMERICAN EXPERIENCES WERE VERY BITTER FOR US. WE ARE MENTIONING THESE FACTS SO THAT OTHERS MAY LEARN THROUGH OUR PAST TROUBLES.

"AS LONG AS THERE ARE FOREIGN BASES IN A COUNTRY,
THAT IS FOREIGN INTRUSION AND NOTHING ELSE. WE BELIEVE
THAT OUR COUNTRY IS THE DEAREST THING WE HAVE IN THIS
WORLD, AND EACH PART OF OUR COUNTRY IS OURSELVES.

"THE EXPULSION OF FOREIGN BASES FROM LIBYAN SOIL
WAS A NATIONAL AIM, BUT IT WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT STEP
TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND THE
REALIZATION OF THE ARAB UNION.

"THE L.A.R. WAS ABLE TO MAKE A STOP TO THE AMERICAN
ECONOMIC MONOPOLIES AND SET UP COMMITTEES TO TACKLE THE
LIBYAN ECONOMY.

"AS LONG AS THE ARAB LANDS ARE OCCUPIED BY THE
INTRUDERS, WE FEEL THAT OUR FREEDOM IS NOT COMPLETE. IF
AMERICA REALLY BELIEVES IN FREEDOM, SHE MUST RESPECT THE
PALESTINIANS. IT WAS AMERICA THE REASON FOR THEIR MISERY
DURING THIS QUARTER OF A CENTURY, AND IT WAS HER POLICIES
WHICH MADE THE PALESTINIANS SUFFER, WHILE DISPERSING THE
AWAY FROM THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY.

"WE WISH THAT THE MALTESE NATION MAINTAINS ITS LINE
OF SUPPORT FROM PEACE AND FREEDOM, ESPECIALLY IN THIS
PERIOD WHEN THE AGGRESSOR IS ONCE MORE MEDDLING WITH
OTHERS'S SECURITY AND LIBERTY. UNQUOTE SMITH
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